

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 10620 301416Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-03
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R 301350Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9359
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BR
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. ATTITUDES/LINOWITZ REPORT

1. DECEMBER 23 ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA REACTED TO LINOWITZ REPORT BY STATING, "I NEVER THOUGHT BRAZIL WOULD HAVE SUCH IMPORTANCE FOR THE U.S., TO THE POINT OF DIVIDING OPINION. IN THE PAST THEY DID NOT EVEN KNOW THE NAME OF OUR CAPITAL." PAPER ADDED SILVEIRA THOUGHT REPORT WOULD NOT IN PRACTICAL TERMS HAVE ANY INFLUENCE OVER PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECISIONS BY HIS GOVERNMENT. ESTADO SAID MINISTER WAS PARTICULARLY IRRITATED BY ALLEGATIONS IN THE REPORT THAT BRAZIL "SYSTEMATICALLY AND FLAGRANTLY" VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TORTURE WAS COMMON PLACE.

2. MINISTER WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "AMERICANS BELIEVE IN THINGS CREATED BY THEIR OWN IMAGINATION WHICH THEN BECOME A FAD." HE STRESSED THAT THE AMERICANS WERE VERY SENSITIVE TO FADS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND AT THE MOMENT HUMAN RIGHTS HEADS THE LIST OF FADS. SILVEIRA ADDED THAT ITAMARATY CONTINUES TO WORK WITHOUT ANY DEEP PREOCCUPATION ABOUT WHAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER MAY DO, CLAIMING "BRAZIL
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 10620 301416Z

HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE ADVENT OF THE NEW NORTH AMERICAN PRESIDENT" BECAUSE GOB WAS DEALING WITH A FRIENDLY NATION "WITH WHOM WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THE BEST OF RELATIONS."

3. COMMENT: THESE SOMEWHAT BLUSTERING BUT BASICALLY

DEFENSIVE SEMI-PUBLIC COMMENTS, APPARENTLY GLEANED DURING
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE IN MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR HIS
COLLEAGUES AND PRESS, DEMONSTRATE DEGREE TO WHICH BRAZILIAN-
USG RELATIONS ARE PROMINENT IN MINDS OF SILVEIRA AND UPPER
LEVELS OF GOB ON EVE OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION. BENEATH
RATHER BOLD ANALYSIS, FOREIGN MINISTER'S WORDS INDICATE
HIS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FUTURE OF USG-GOB RELATIONSHIP.
END COMMENT
CRIMMINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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